

## Lesson 5

# THE WORK OF CHRIST

### Prepare for Your Assignment

1. Download message #5, "The Suffering Jesus: Our Substitute and Shepherd," from [www.gty.org/fof](http://www.gty.org/fof).
2. Use your notebook to take notes on the message.
3. Work through the questions and tasks on the following pages.

### Memorize: 1 Corinthians 15:3–4

*For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.*

■ Some people think Jesus died as a martyr. They think that Jesus is just a great example of someone who died for a cause. That's the "Jesus Christ Superstar" mentality—that Jesus was a martyr who lived for a good cause and sets a great example of how to be so sold-out to a cause that you are willing to die as a martyr. And admittedly, a martyr can be an example of suffering but a martyr cannot be a substitute. A martyr cannot take away my sin by the sacrifice of himself.

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The Scriptures tell us that "He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness" (1 Peter 2:24).

### I. Man's Need for Christ's Work

#### A. According to Romans 3:10–12, every man is guilty of what six things?

1. \_\_\_\_\_ none righteous \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_ none who understands \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_ none who seeks for God \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_ all have turned aside \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_ they have become useless \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_ no one does good \_\_\_\_\_

Romans 3:23 sums up the problem: "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

#### B. To what is man a slave (John 8:34)? \_\_\_\_\_ sin \_\_\_\_\_

#### C. What is the result of sin (James 1:15)? \_\_\_\_\_ death \_\_\_\_\_

#### D. Because we were dead in trespasses and sins, whom did we follow and what kind of children were we (Ephesians 2:1–3)?

\_\_\_\_\_ "You formerly walked according to the course of  
\_\_\_\_\_ this world, according to the prince of the power of  
\_\_\_\_\_ the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons  
\_\_\_\_\_ of disobedience. Among them we too all formerly  
\_\_\_\_\_ lived the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of  
\_\_\_\_\_ the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature  
\_\_\_\_\_ children of wrath, even as the rest." \_\_\_\_\_

#### E. Whose wrath will the "sons of disobedience" experience (Ephesians 5:6)?

\_\_\_\_\_ God's wrath \_\_\_\_\_

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### Will God Tolerate Sin?

“Cursed is everyone who does not abide by all things written in the book of the law, to perform them.”  
—Galatians 3:10

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As we studied in lesson #3, God asserts His holiness and demands conformity to that holiness. Man is faced with:

- ◆ Sin (Romans 3:23)
- ◆ Having God as his enemy (James 4:4b)
- ◆ Subjection to the power of Satan (1 John 5:19)
- ◆ Being helpless to save himself (Romans 5:6)
- ◆ Death (Romans 6:23)
- ◆ Condemnation and eternal separation from God (2 Thessalonians 1:9)

## II. The Cost of Christ's Work

### A. Read Philippians 2:7–8.

1. What are three things Christ did when He came to earth (verse 7)?

- a. \_\_\_\_\_ emptied Himself
- b. \_\_\_\_\_ took the form of a bond-servant
- c. \_\_\_\_\_ found in appearance as a man

2. In what way did Jesus humble Himself (verse 8)? “He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”

### B. What happened to Jesus on earth, according to Isaiah 53:3?

“He was despised and forsaken of men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief”

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### C. Forgiveness of sins requires what (Hebrews 9:22)?

“According to the Law, one may almost say, all things are cleansed with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.”

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### D. What price did Christ pay to redeem us (1 Peter 1:18–19)?

His shed blood

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E. What did Jesus cry out on the cross (Matthew 27:46)?

"My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"

F. What did God do to Jesus while He was on the cross (Isaiah 53:6)?

"The Lord has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him."

### III. The Provisions of Christ's Work

Jesus Christ came to earth to pay the price for sin. That price was His own life, which He gave voluntarily (John 10:11, 17-18). His sacrifice was the only way to take away sin for all time (Hebrews 9:12).

Describe what Jesus' death accomplished.

A. **1 Peter 3:18** "For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit."

B. **Romans 5:10** "For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life."

C. **2 Corinthians 5:21** "He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."

D. **Galatians 1:4** "[Jesus] gave Himself for our sins so that He might rescue us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father."

E. **Ephesians 1:7** "In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace."

■ At the heart of the church's worship is the beautiful ordinance of the Lord's Table, with which we are very familiar. There at the Lord's Table we take the bread and the cup in remembrance and communion with Christ. At the heart of the Lord's Table is a doctrine and that doctrine is the very core of the Christian gospel. It is summed up in the words of our Lord who said, "This is My body which is given for you." The essence of the Christian gospel is that Jesus Christ has done something for us. Most specifically, He died *for* us. That's the point. His death was *for* us. And that is precisely what Peter says in 1 Peter 2:21, "Christ also suffered for you." He suffered for you. It was for us that Christ suffered, that's his point.

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**F. Romans 6:6–7** “Our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; for he who has died is freed from sin.”

**Jesus Christ: The Answer to All Man’s Problems Concerning Salvation**

Christ’s work on the cross and His resurrection are the only solution to man’s problems. That is why Peter could proclaim of Jesus Christ:

“And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.” —Acts 4:12

Refer to your answers in the first section of this lesson, and note how Christ is the answer to each of man’s problems.

Man’s Problem	The Solution in Christ	Scripture
A. Guilt before God 1. Not righteous	“Through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous.”	Romans 5:19
2. Not understanding	“The Son of God has come, and has given us understanding.”	1 John 5:20
3. Not seeking God	“The Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”	Luke 19:10
4. Turned away from God	“You were . . . straying . . . but now you have returned to the Shepherd.”	1 Peter 2:25
5. All have become useless	“These qualities . . . render you neither useless nor unfruitful in . . . Christ.”	2 Peter 1:8
6. No good works	“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works.”	Ephesians 2:10
B. Slavery to sin	“Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.”	Romans 8:2
C. Facing death	“He who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life.”	John 5:24
D. Facing the wrath of God	“Justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him.”	Romans 5:9

**IV. The Motive for Christ’s Work**

**A. Why did God save men (John 3:16; Romans 5:8)?** Because He loves us.

“For God so loved the world, that He have His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. . . . God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”

**B. What attribute of God is demonstrated in His salvation of men (1 Peter 1:3)?** Mercy.

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”

**C. Why does the author call God’s mercy great? (Hint: Romans 5:6, 8)**

Because He died for the unworthy

## **V. The Resolution and Continuation of Christ’s Work**

Christ’s death on Calvary finished His redemptive work for man (John 19:30). But salvation’s story does not end there. The grave could not hold Christ; He lives and continues the work He began for us.

**A. How was Christ declared to be the Son of God (Romans 1:4)?**

“... with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord.”

**B. After Christ made purification of sins, how was He exalted (Hebrews 1:3)?**

“... He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.”

**C. We experience spiritual death through Adam’s sin. What benefit do we gain through Christ’s resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:21–22)?** “in Christ all will be made alive.”

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The Bible refers to Christ’s resurrection as “the firstfruits.” This is an Old Testament term that speaks of the firstfruits of the harvest; these fruits were set apart for the Lord. When used in the New Testament, “firstfruits” implies a pledge of more harvest to follow. Therefore, Christ’s resurrection holds the promise of resurrection for others also (1 Corinthians 15:20–22; 1 Peter 1:3).

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**D. Now that we have been drawn to God through Christ, what is Jesus able to do (Hebrews**

**7:25)?** “Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.”

**E. What role does Christ hold exclusively (1 Timothy 2:5)?** “For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.”

**F. When Jesus was going to leave, what did He promise He would do (John 14:3)?** “For I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also.”